



## Long Range Discrimination Radar Operations, Clear Air Force Station, Alaska, Environmental Impact Statement Frequently Asked Questions

### What is MDA proposing to do? What about FAA?

The Missile Defense Agency (MDA), in cooperation with the Department of the Air Force (DAF) and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with operating a Long Range Discrimination Radar (LRDR) located at Clear Air Force Station (CAFS) in Alaska.

If the Proposed Action is implemented, MDA would operate the LRDR continuously and FAA would take actions related to restricting the flight of aircraft in airspace where high-intensity radiated fields (HIRF) would exceed FAA certification standards for aircraft electrical and electronic systems.

### Why does MDA need to prepare an EIS?

MDA is proposing to operate the LRDR continuously, which would result in FAA taking actions related to restricting the flight of aircraft in airspace where there are HIRF. MDA, in cooperation with DAF and FAA, prepared a Draft EIS to identify and evaluate potential environmental impacts of the Proposed Action; describe appropriate mitigation measures or other commitments required; and communicate the findings to agency decision makers, regulators, the general public, and stakeholder groups.

### Why is this important?

The purpose of the Proposed Action in the EIS is to (1) support the defense of the U.S. from emerging threats through improved missile tracking and discrimination capabilities by integrating the LRDR as an operational asset into the layered Missile Defense System (MDS) and (2) make changes in airspace management to accommodate the operation of the LRDR. The Proposed Action is needed to protect the U.S. against long-range missile threats, as directed in the 2014 Fiscal Year National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) and 2016 Fiscal Year NDAA, and to protect aviation from the hazard posed by the HIRF resulting from the LRDR.

### Will the project improve the missile defense of the United States?

Yes, the LRDR will be an integral part of the layered MDS, with the primary mission to provide continuous and precise tracking and discrimination of missile threats launched against the U.S. Discrimination is the ability to distinguish lethal objects from debris and decoys around the lethal object, a critical capability needed to successfully identify and target incoming missile threats.

### Is there an impact for residents in the area? What about the flying public?

The primary impact for residents would be the change to airspace access around CAFS, requiring changes to flight paths and relocation of the Civil Air Patrol Glider Academy. The change in LRDR operations would not harm the ground, water, people, or housing areas. A detailed analysis of the environmental impacts and proposed airspace changes is provided in the Draft EIS.

### What are the anticipated environmental impacts?

The Proposed Action was designed to minimize impacts on the environment and aviation while protecting the U.S. against long-range missile threats. None of the impacts identified in the environmental analysis would reach a level that would necessitate mitigation. A detailed analysis of the environmental impacts is provided in the Draft EIS.



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### How do I provide comments and when does the comment period end?

The public is invited to submit comments on the Draft EIS.

**Comment Period:** October 30 through December 21, 2020.

Comments can be submitted in the following ways:



**Email:** [lrdr.info@mda.mil](mailto:lrdr.info@mda.mil)



**FAX:** 907-644-2022



**Voicemail:** 256-450-1599



**Mail:** LRDR CAFS EIS

C/O HDR

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Due to federal and state guidance on public gatherings, MDA will provide two opportunities for the public to receive additional information and to provide comments. A virtual, Online Open House and a Telephone Public Meeting will be held in place of in-person meetings.

| MEETING TYPE             | DAY/TIME                                       | LOCATION DETAILS   |
|--------------------------|--|--|
| Online Open House        | October 30 through December 21, 2020           | Visit <a href="http://www.cleareis.com">www.cleareis.com</a> |
| Telephone Public Meeting | December 2, 2020<br>4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. AKST | Dial 855-756-7520 and use<br>Access Code 65743               |

Electronic copies of the Draft EIS and Online Open House materials are available at <https://www.mda.mil/system/lrdr> and upon request.

For more information, please visit the project website at <https://www.mda.mil/system/lrdr> or email the project team at [lrdr.info@mda.mil](mailto:lrdr.info@mda.mil).